

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 31, 2007. Claims 6 and 11 to 16 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 10 having been cancelled and Claim 6 having been amended. Claims 6, 11 and 13 to 16 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 and 8 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0149799 (Hayashi). Claims 2, 4 and 5 to 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yayashi and U.S. Published Appln. No. 2001/0026693 (Sasai). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention provides a printing method used in a printing system comprising a first printing apparatuses used for printing, a second printing apparatus that executes a calibration process on the first printing apparatus, and a network connecting the first and second printing apparatuses together. The method comprises continuing printing on the first printing apparatus when the first printing apparatus requests a calibration process to the second printing apparatus, sensing a temperature of the second printing apparatus, providing temperature information by comparing the temperature of the second printing apparatus with a temperature of the first printing apparatus to provide temperature information indicative of the need for heating or cooling, sensing a humidity of the second printing apparatus, providing humidity information by comparing the humidity of the second printing apparatus with a humidity of the first printing apparatus to provide humidity information indicative of the need for humidification or dehumidification of the second printing apparatus, executing a process on the basis of information obtained from

the temperature information and the humidity information, then reading the density of each patch of a patch pattern in the second printing apparatus, and generating density converted characteristic information on the basis of density results which information is required to obtain a target density characteristic, and a step of transmitting the density converted characteristic information to the first printing apparatus.

Applicant respectfully submit that the cited references, namely Hayashi and Sasai, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the method of Claim 6. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a step of continuing printing on a first printing apparatus when the first printing apparatus requests a temperature and humidity corrected calibration process of a second printing apparatus and transmitting by the second printing apparatus the density converted characteristic information to the first printing apparatus.

In contrast, Hayashi discloses a color copying machine for outputting a draft image. The color copying machine has a preparing unit for preparing calibration data containing the color copying machine's scanner's calibration patterns to be output from a printer of the color copying machine. The color copying machine further has a correcting unit for correcting the draft image input from the scanner of the color copying machine based on the calibration data prepared by the preparing unit.

However Hayashi does not disclose or suggest continuing printing by the first printing apparatus when the first printing apparatus requests a temperature and humidity corrected calibration process of the second printing apparatus. In regard to the calibration, Hayashi does not disclose or suggest a step of temperature information

providing which comparing the temperature of the second printing apparatus acquired by the temperature sensing step with a temperature of the first printing apparatus to provide temperature information indicative of the need for heating or cooling nor a step of humidity information providing which comparing the humidity of the second printing apparatus acquired by the humidity sensing step with a humidity of the first printing apparatus to provide humidity information indicative of the need for humidification or dehumidification.

Without these features, a system in accordance with Hayashi does not allow continuation of printing by the first printing apparatus without degradation of productivity nor does such a system allow acquisition of the temperature and humidity environment of the first printing apparatus by the second printing apparatus.

Furthermore, Hayashi does not disclose or suggest a step of executing a process on the basis of information obtained from the temperature information providing step and the humidity information providing step, then reading the density of each patch of a patch pattern in the second printing apparatus nor a step of transmitting the density converted characteristic information to the first printing apparatus.

Without these features, in a system in accordance with Hayashi, the operating environment of temperature and humidity of the first printing apparatus cannot be acquired by the second printing apparatus, and density converted characteristic information of the first printing apparatus cannot be generated on the second printing apparatus.

Finally, Sasai discloses a facsimile machine that performs a printing operation in an optimum environment by detecting the environment, including humidity, of

the facsimile machine when it receives a facsimile signal from a remote device. However, Sasai fails to disclose or suggest any of the other features of Claim 6 that are missing from Hayashi. In particular, Sasai, does not disclose or suggest continuing printing by the first printing apparatus when the first printing apparatus requests a temperature and humidity corrected calibration process of the second printing apparatus and transmitting the density converted characteristic information to the first printing apparatus.

In light of the deficiencies of Hayashi and Sasai as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 6 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 13 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with Claim 6. Claims 14 to 16 are directed to computer program products substantially in accordance with Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11, 13 and 14 to 16 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 12 is dependent from Claim 11 discussed above and is therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of Claim 12 on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The previously paid for claim count included four (4) independent claims and a total of ten (10) claims. The new claim count includes six (6) independent claims and a total of seven claims (7). The Director is hereby authorized to charge the \$420 fee for the two (2) additional excess independent claims to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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